

**BASEBALL SAVED US** (pages 4–13)**Predicting**

**Predicting** is making guesses about what will happen next in a story. Thinking about the clues in the story will help you make better predictions.

A. Put an **X** before the clues that might help you predict that the narrator will get a hit in the final game.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Playing baseball at the camp had made him a better player.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. His hands were shaking.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. He thought maybe he should pretend to be sick.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. The sun glinting off the glasses of the pitcher reminded him of the guard in the tower.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. He was the smallest player on the team.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. He blocked out the noise of the crowd and got set to hit.

B. Read this story and think about what might come next. Then answer the questions below.

Katy learned to play the guitar, and now she wants to buy a used one. For the past six months, she has been saving her money. But she also loves horses and collects small china statues of them. One day she goes to the mall with her friends and sees a beautiful china black stallion. She doesn't have anything like it in her collection. Her friends urge her to buy it. But she also wants to buy the guitar that month. Still, she has never seen such a beautiful china horse.

1. What do you predict will happen next? Circle the letter of your choice.
  - a. Katy will buy the china black stallion and not get the guitar.
  - b. Katy will not buy the statue and buy the guitar instead.
2. Give two reasons why you think this will happen. What clues in the story led you to this prediction?

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## BASEBALL SAVED US (pages 4–13)

### Setting

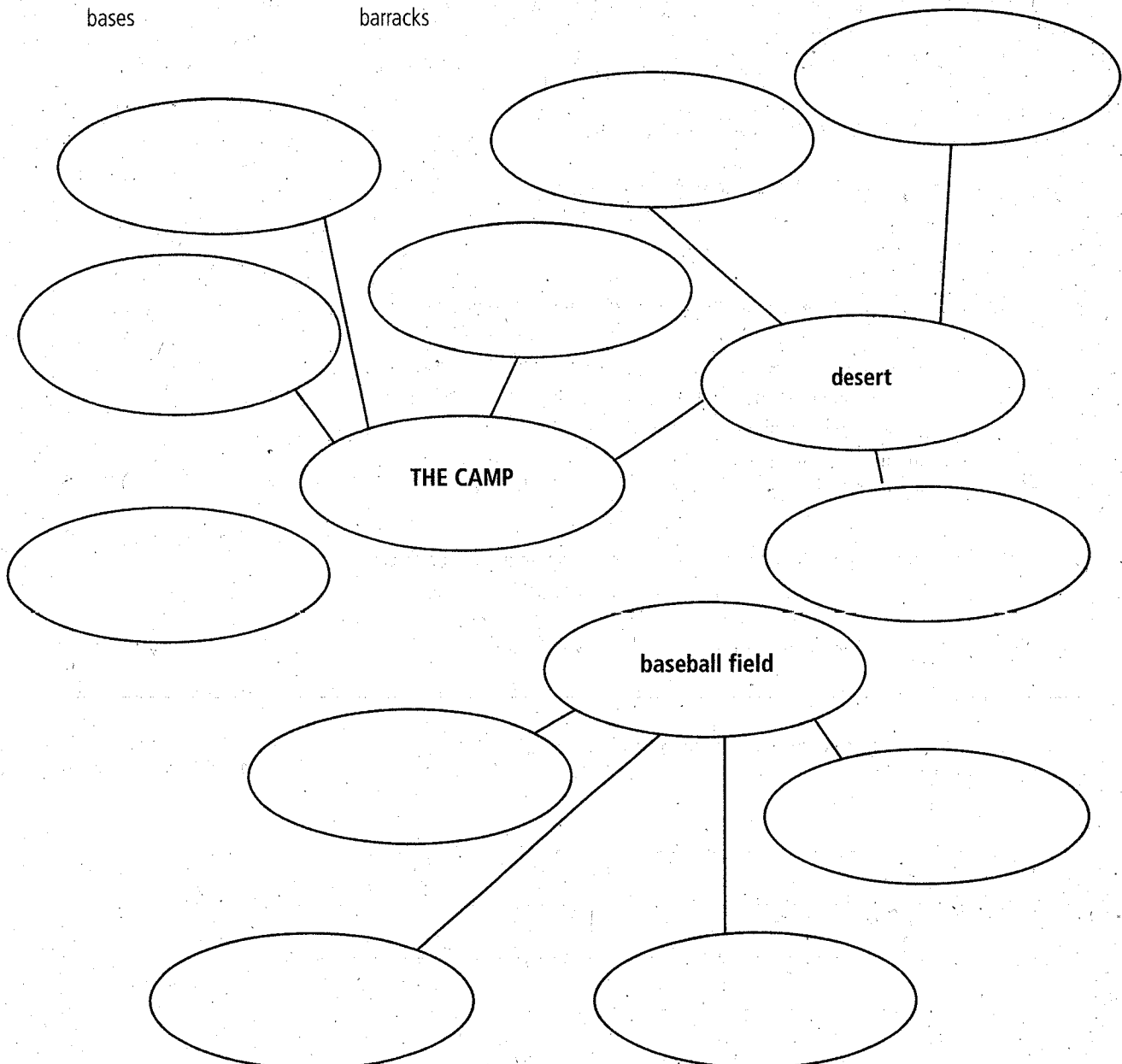
A **setting** is when and where a story takes place. Some writers include many details about settings to help readers see the settings clearly in their minds.

Read this list of details about setting in the story *Baseball Saved Us*. Three of the details are already in place in the web below. Write the other details in the correct place in the web to show what they describe.

barbed-wire fence  
bleachers  
so hot in the daytime  
bases

infield  
dust storms  
so cold at night  
barracks

soldiers with guns  
outfield  
guardhouse



## BASEBALL SAVED US (pages 4–13)

### Specialized Vocabulary

Many fields, for example, different sports and sciences, have their own special terms, or **specialized vocabulary**. As you read, use context clues to figure out the meanings of these words.

- A. Read this list of words. Decide whether each word is connected with baseball or the military. Write the word under either *Baseball* or *Military*.

first baseman  
army

home run  
inning

soldier  
barracks

battle  
fort

outfielder  
shortstop

#### Baseball

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#### Military

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- B. Each underlined word is used in two different ways. Use context clues to choose the meaning that makes the most sense. Write the letter of the meaning you choose on the line next to each sentence.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ The player usually grounded out, but sometimes he hit a single.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ I felt hungry and was disappointed to see a single cookie left in the box.  
 a. only one of something  
 b. hit in baseball by which the batter reaches first base

2. \_\_\_\_\_ The batter took a swing at the ball.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ The little girl took a ride on the swing in the playground.  
 a. sweeping blow  
 b. seat hanging on ropes or chains

3. \_\_\_\_\_ The runner tagged third base and dashed for home.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Beverly invited her friends over to see her new home.  
 a. place where a person lives  
 b. base in the game of baseball

## BASEBALL SAVED US (pages 4–13)

### Words to Know

barracks    bleachers    glinting

A. Fill in each blank with a word from the list above. You may use a word more than once.

1. The lake looked as if it were \_\_\_\_\_, or sparkling, in the moonlight.
2. We sat on the \_\_\_\_\_ and cheered when our team hit a home run.
3. There was little space inside the \_\_\_\_\_, yet the soldiers did not mind sleeping in a crowded room.
4. Natalie's \_\_\_\_\_ eyes had a shine, or twinkle, that showed how happy she was.

B. Write the letter of the correct definition for each word.

- |                                  |                    |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| a. sparkling; shining            | _____ 1. bleachers |
| b. open seats for watching games | _____ 2. barracks  |
| c. buildings where soldiers live | _____ 3. glinting  |

C. Write **true** or **false** in each blank.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. **Bleachers** are tables that can be folded and put away.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. **Barracks** can be used for shelter during war.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Another word for **glinting** is *twinkling*.

### Writing Activity

Imagine you went to see your favorite team play a game. Write a journal entry telling what happened at the game. Use at least one of the **Words to Know**.